

Symbology Standards Management Committee (SSMC)

Purpose: The Symbology SMC is chartered as a subcommittee of the Standards Coordinating Committee (SSC) for the purpose of overseeing all DOD symbology activities. The scope of the SSMC's responsibilities encompasses all warfighting symbology activities in support of joint and combined operations.

Mission: The SSMC mission is to build upon the activities, special expertise, and procedures established under the DOD ITS and DSP programs. The committee supports the management structure and mechanisms necessary to accomplish the necessary coordination, integration, validation, testing, implementation, and configuration management of symbology standards. The committee leads DOD in the use, effectiveness, efficiency and reduction in costs in applying uniform symbol standards and in harmonizing these standards with related non-DOD standards. The SSMC will develop, establish, implement, and promulgate new and existing symbology standards to ensure compatibility and interoperability of symbology among DOD information systems, and to the extent authorized, with non-DOD information systems.

Organization: The SSMC consists of a chairman, who is provided by the DISA Center for Information Technology Standards (CFITS), as the Lead Standardization Agency, a secretariat, also provided by CFITS and the voting members of the SSMC as per the SSMC approved charter. The voting members consist of DOD CINC/Service/Agency representatives having C4I interests and significant involvement in the development, maintenance, and use of symbology ITS. Voting members are listed in the SSMC Charter and are designated in writing.

Functions and Responsibilities: The Joint Staff is responsible for providing guidance on the validation of symbology requirements for C4I systems and compliance certification. The SSMC functions as a subordinate body of the SCC. The committee functions under the management structure and mechanisms of the Symbology ITS Management Plan and conducts the bulk of the symbology standards ITS activities in support of the DOD C4I community. The SSMC provides a single focal point for symbology standardization.

The SSMC also functions as a primary means by which DISA assesses requirements, assigns priorities to tasks and monitors the success of the symbology ITS program. The SSMC, in its CCB role, coordinates with appropriate LSAs to maintain existing standards.

Accomplishments: In the age of information and information warfare, it is essential that the Warrior has a fused, real-time true picture of the battlespace. Symbology is a

critical factor in making this concept a reality. The SSMC has made significant headway in its support to warfighting interoperability and C4I systems implementation of standard warfighting symbology in its development of MIL-STD-2525B that became effective on 29 January 1999. MIL-STD-2525B is designed to eliminate conflicts within various symbol sets and to bring a core set of common warfighting symbology within one DOD standard. The standard provides sets of C4I symbols, a coding scheme for symbol automation and information transfer, an information hierarchy and taxonomy, and technical details to support systems implementation. Joint warfighting has strengthened the requirement for the rapid exchange of information by the C4I systems community, expanding into the weapons control or engagement domains. The standard provides details on symbology display and plotting to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, interoperability of DOD C4I systems, development, operations and training. The standard will serve as the standard symbol set for all future DOD uses of C4I symbology.

Ongoing Work: Incorporation of additional symbols and symbol sets such as the Fire Support symbols provided by the Army.

Development of the 2001 version of the standard tentatively scheduled for release summer of 2001. The SSMC is investigating how best to ensure consistency of symbology data elements and warfighting requirements across the symbology and messaging standards, e.g. USMTF and TADILS/VMF. The major consideration for the symbology community is how to accommodate the engagement domain symbology as presented in systems such as Naval Tactical Data System (NTDS) and Joint Tactical Information Distribution System (JTIDS).